"Expert Group on estimation of proportion and number of poor" under the Chairmanship of Late Prof. Lakdawala to work out the population Below Poverty Line. According to these estimates the BPL population works out to 32.03 crores, i.e., 35.97 per cent of the total population of the country which will be covered under the Targeted PDS. A Statement on TPDS was made in the Rajya Sabha and the guidelines laid on the Table of the House on 24.2.1997.

The State Governments/UT Administrations have been asked to complete all necessary arrangements as per the guidelines for implementation of the Targeted PDS. The States of Tripura and Haryana have implemented Targeted PDS w.e.f. 1.5.1997. Most States/UTs have made substantial progress in making the necessary arrangements and have indicated their readiness to implement the Targeted PDS w.e.f. 1.6.1997 except Punjab, Delhi and Meghalaya.

Extension of Essential commodities Act beyond August, 1997

4473. SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA:
SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SAMBHAJIRAO SHINDE:

Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether ASSOCHAM has urged upon Government not to extend the Essential Commodities Act beyond August this year, when its present term is likely to expire;

(b) if so, the grounds adduced by ASSOCHAM in support of their demand; and

(c) Government's decision thereon?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE, MINISTER OF FOOD AND MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA): (a) No representation has been received from ASSOCHAM in this regard.

(b) and (c) Do not arise in view of (a) above.

Quota of edible Oil for Andhra Pradesh

4474. SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY: Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the State Government have been getting the required quota of edible oil from Government;

(b) if so, the details thereof, specifically with reference to Andhra Pradesh;

(c) whether it is a fact that the quota asked for by the Andhra Pradesh Government was not sanctioned;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor;

(e) whether Government propose to